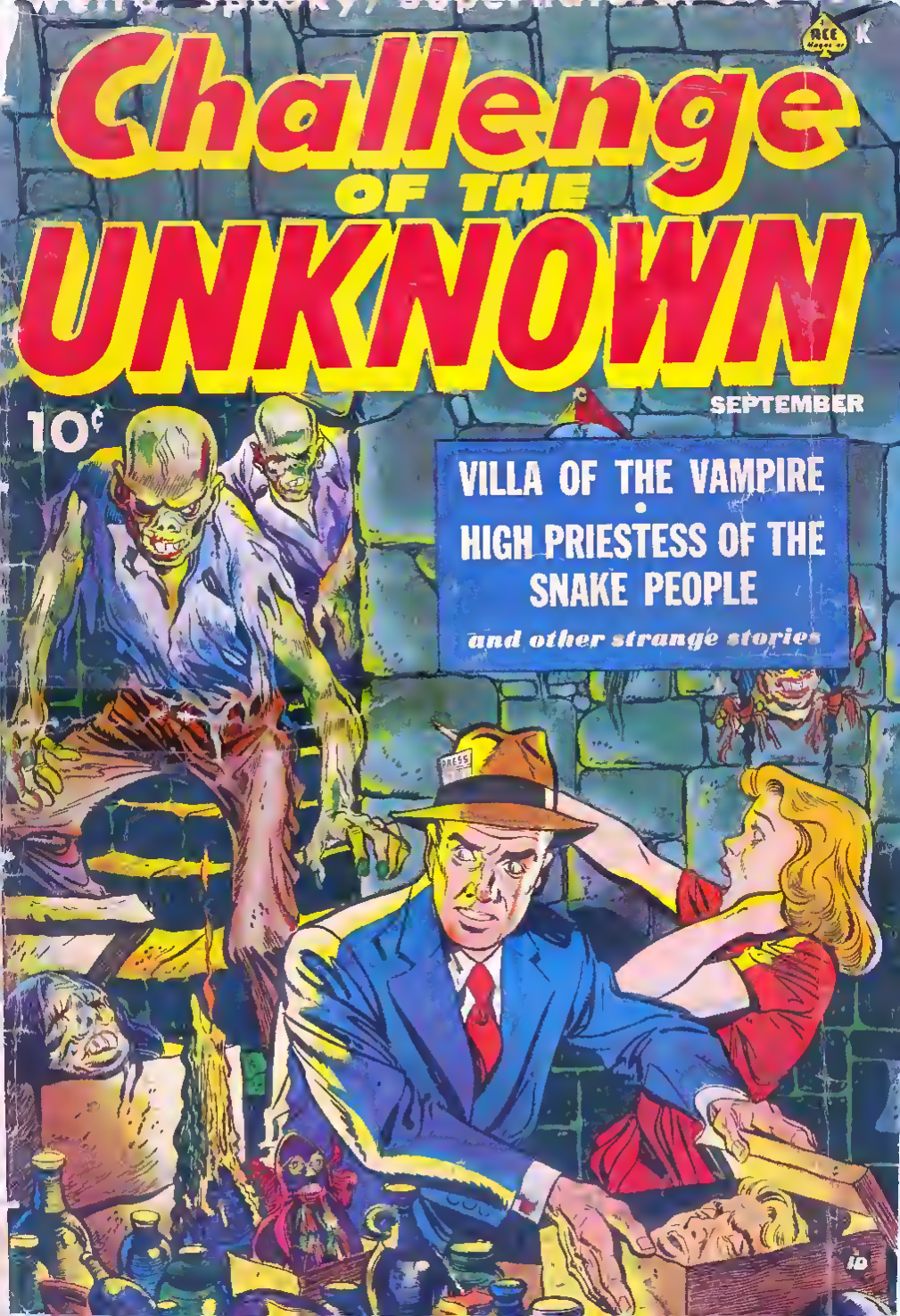

Challenge
OF THE
UNKNOWN
SEPTEMBER
10¢
VILLA OF THE VAMPIRE
•
HIGH PRIESTESS OF THE SNAKE PEOPLE
and other strange stories

HAVE A SLIMMER, YOUTHFUL, FEMININE APPEARANCE INSTANTLY!

REDUCE

No other girdle or supporter belt has more hold-in power! The Up-Lift Adjust-O-BELT is the newest most comfortable girdle I ever had.

YOUR APPEARANCE! LOOK AND FEEL LIKE SIXTEEN AGAIN!

Don't look old before your time. Do as thousands of others do, wear a comfortable, new and improved UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT! The UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT with the amazing new *adjustable* front panel controls your figure the way you want it with added support where you need it most. Simply adjust the laces and PRESTO your sad section is reshaped, your back is *braced* and you look and feel *younger!*

MORE UP-LIFT AND HOLD-IN POWER!

The UP LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT takes weight off tired feet and gives you a more alluring more daringly feminine, curvaceous figure the instant you put it on. It gives you lovely curves just in the *right places*, with no unwanted bulges in the wrong ones. It whittles your waist line to *nothingness* no matter what shape you may now have. *It's easily adjusted—always comfortable!*

TEST THE ADJUST-O-BELT UP-LIFT PRINCIPLE WITH YOUR OWN HANDS!

Clasp your hands over your abdomen, press upwards and in gently, *but firmly*. You feel better don't you! That's just what the UP LIFT ADJUST-O BELT does for you only the ADJUST O BELT does it better. *Mail Coupon and test it at home* for 10 days *FREE* at our expense!

You will look like and feel like this beautiful model in your new and improved Up-Lift Adjust-O-Belt

APPEAR SLIMMER, AND FEEL BETTER!

The UP-LIFT ADJUST-O BELT lifts and flattens unsightly bulges, comfortably, quickly, firmly. It *readjusts* easily to changes in your figure, yet no laces touch your body. It gives instant *slenderising figure control*. It fashionably shapes your figure to its slimmest lines. *Like magic the UP-LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT* obeys your every wish. *Pounds* and *Inches* seem to disappear instantly from waist, hips and thighs. You can adjust it to your slimmed down figure as your figure changes. It gives the same fit and comfort you get from a made to order girdle costing 2 to 3 times the price. It washes like a dream Style: Panty and regular Colors nude and white It's made of the finest stretch material in any girdle with a pure satin front panel and made by the most skilled craftsmen. It's light in weight but powerfully strong It won't roll up, bulge or curl at the top It gives extra double support where you need it most *No other girdle at any price can give you better support, can make you look better, feel better or appear slimmer* Sizes 24 to 44 waist.

ONLY $3.98

Money-Back Guarantee

With A 10-Day FREE TRIAL

If the UP LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT isn't better than any supporter you ever had, if You don't feel more comfortable, if you don't look and feel younger, if your shape isn't 100% IMPROVED, if you are not delighted with it, return it and your money will be refunded in full.

FREE: New amazing NYLON laces will be sent free with your order. Try them instead of your regular laces. You may keep them FREE even if you return the girdle.

SEND NO MONEY

ADJUST-O BELT CO., DEPT. 318
1025 Broad St., Newark, New Jersey

Rush your new and improved UP LIFT ADJUST-O BELT for $3.98 in size and style checked ☐ Regular ☐ Panty
☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postage plus handling
☐ I enclose $3.98. You pay postage plus postage.

CHECK SIZE ☐ Sm (25-26) ☐ Med. (27-28) ☐ Lg (29-30) ☐ XL (31-32) ☐ XXL (33-34)
☐ XXXL (35-40) ☐ XXXXL (42-44)

NAME . . . . . .

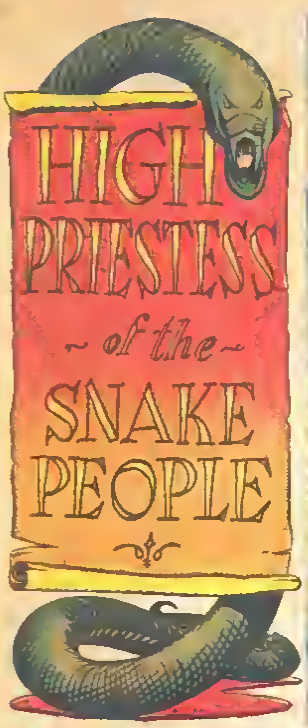
ADDRESS . . . . . .

CITY . . . . ZONE . . . . STATE . . . .

I understand if not delighted with the UP LIFT ADJUST-O-BELT I can return it in 10 days for full purchase price refund.

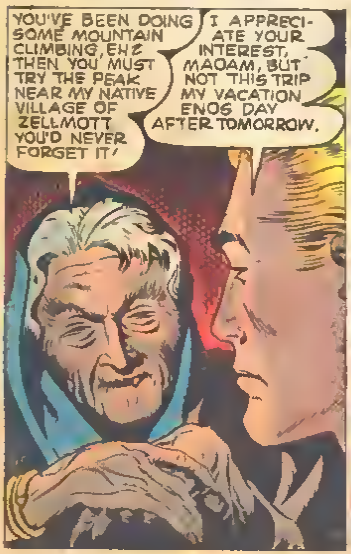
SENT ON APPROVAL!

CHALLENGE OF THE UNKNOWN (Formerly Love Experiences) September 1958. Number 9. Published bi-monthly by Ace Magazines, The Office of Publication: 20 Washington Street Springfield, 3 Mass. Editorial and executive offices, 23 West 47th Street, New York 36, N. Y. Entered as second class matter June 28, 1948, at the Post Office at Springfield, Mass., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Single copies, 10c; 12 issues, $1.20. Copyright, 1958, by Ace Magazines, Inc. Printed in U.S.A.



YOU'VE BEEN VERY KIND TO SHOW ME YOUR PIPES, MADAM, BUT TOBACCO IS ALL I'LL BE NEEDING!
PERHAPS THEN, I CAN DO YOU A REAL SERVICE. SOMETHING YOU WILL THANK ME FOR TO YOUR DYING DAY!
Ta Da!!!

"THE INSTANT I ENTERED THE TINY SWISS TOBACCO SHOP, I WAS SEIZED BY A STRANGE AND UNEXPLAINABLE SENSE OF DANGER. WAS IT BECAUSE OF THE BURNING LOOK IN THE OLD WOMAN'S EYES, OR WAS IT THE CHOKING SMELL OF DECAY AND AGE THAT BROUGHT FRIGHT TO MY HEART? HERE, IN THIS SHOP, THE FIRST LINK IN THE CHAIN OF TERROR WAS FORGED -- TO TRANSPLANT ME INTO A WORLD OF SUCH LOATHESOME HORROR, OF SUCH UNFORGETTABLE AND SINISTER FORCES, THAT DEATH ITSELF WOULD HAVE BEEN A BETTER FATE THAN ITS LIVING MEMORY!"


YOU'VE BEEN DOING SOME MOUNTAIN CLIMBING, EH? THEN YOU MUST TRY THE PEAK NEAR MY NATIVE VILLAGE OF ZELLMOTT. YOU'D NEVER FORGET IT!
I APPRECIATE YOUR INTEREST, MADAM, BUT NOT THIS TRIP. MY VACATION ENDS DAY AFTER TOMORROW.

"AT THAT MOMENT, I HEARD A SLIGHT MOVEMENT FROM THE REAR OF THE SHOP, AND.. "

"She seemed to glide toward me, and when I looked into her face, I could see the green depth of her eyes beneath the long sweep of her lashes. Her beauty was intoxicating."

ZELLMOTT IS DIFFERENT. YOU WILL FIND IT THE MOST EXCITING EXPERIENCE OF YOUR ENTIRE LIFE!

I-- I DON'T KNOW MY PLANS CALLED FOR

THEN FORGET YOUR PLANS TONIGHT. YOUR TRAIN WILL PASS AN OLD TOWER ATOP A STEEP HILL. ZELLMOTT LIES JUST BEYOND. YOU WILL GO THERE!

I-- I'M NOT SURE

"In what seemed a half trance, I slowly backed out of the shop, the girl's haunting eyes never leaving mine. But when I was outside."

WHY, IT'S A PACKAGE OF TOBACCO-- SHE PUT IT IN MY HAND, AND I HAVEN'T PAID FOR IT!

THE DOOR IS LOCKED! WAIT. THAT SIGN! IT CAN'T BE!

CLOSED DUE TO DEATH IN FAMILY

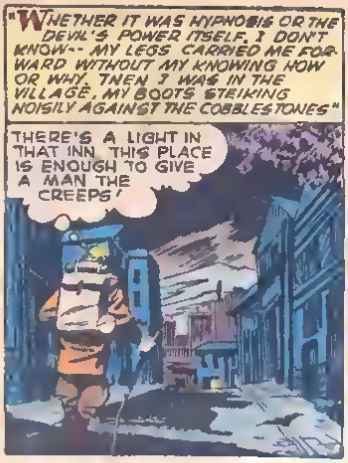
"Bewildered and shocked, I looked through the window. I was aware of an immediate change. The girl and the old woman were gone, and so were the weird and grotesque furnishings. Then, a revolting horror loomed before my eyes!"

THAT SNAKE! IT'S ALIVE!

"I fled in terror, the loathesome spectacle plunging my thoughts into abysmal depths of horror and wild panic. Yet, that very same evening, as my train rounded a long, sweeping turn, I saw it.."

IT'S THE TOWER GILDA SPOKE OF-- AND THE MOUNTAIN! IT'S MAGNIFICENT!

"Perhaps it was the peculiar aroma of the tobacco that Gilda gave me that made me behave in so strange and sudden a manner. I can offer no explanation for my action, but a sharp and irresistible impulse compelled me to get off that train..."


"WHETHER IT WAS HYPNOSIS OR THE DEVIL'S POWER ITSELF, I DON'T KNOW-- MY LEGS CARRIED ME FORWARD WITHOUT MY KNOWING HOW OR WHY. THEN I WAS IN THE VILLAGE, MY BOOTS STRIKING NOISILY AGAINST THE COBBLESTONES"
THERE'S A LIGHT IN THAT INN. THIS PLACE IS ENOUGH TO GIVE A MAN THE CREEPS!

GILDA!

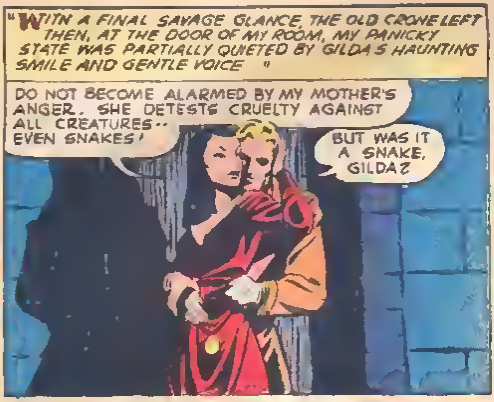
"I ENTERED THE INN AND..."
YOU!
WELCOME, YOUNG MAN. WELCOME TO THE VILLAGE OF ZELLMOTT!

"MY MIND WAS SO CONFUSED BY THE STRANGE COURSE OF EVENTS, THAT I WANTED TO FLEE. BUT FLIGHT WAS IMPOSSIBLE WHEN I HEARD GILDA'S VOICE. IT FELL UPON MY EARS LIKE THE TINKLING OF A TINY SILVER BELL, CARESSING AND OVERPOWERING IN ITS SWEETNESS..."
YOU ARE NOT UNHAPPY TO FIND ME HERE, ARE YOU? WE WISH ONLY TO MAKE YOUR STAY HERE MORE COMFORTABLE. YOUR ROOM IS WAITING, HERR ?
MY NAME IS MICHAEL CORNING-- AND I W--WILL STAY.

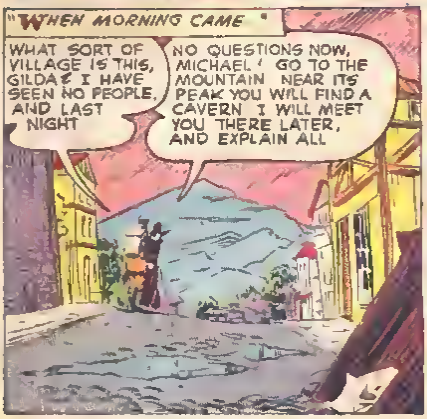
"DUMBLY, I FOLLOWED THE BEWITCHING GILDA FROM THE ROOM. AS WE CAME TO THE STAIRWAY, I HEARD A SOUND AT MY FEET. WHEN I LOOKED DOWN, A CRY OF HORROR SPRANG TO MY LIPS, AND..."
LOOK OUT!

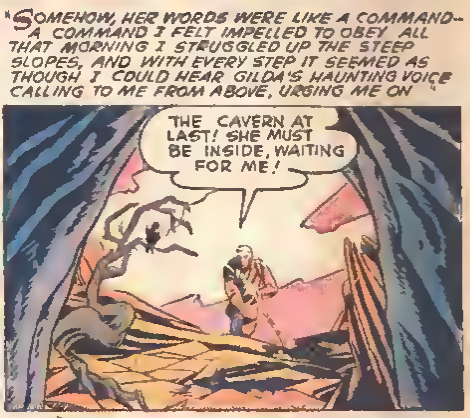
LET ME GO, GILDA! I CAN STILL KILL IT!
NO, YOU MUSTN'T! IT MEANT NO HARM!

"A MOMENT LATER, THE OLD CRONE EMERGED FROM THE ROOM WHICH THE SNAKE HAD ENTERED. HER RAGE WAS TERRIFYING. BUT EVEN MORE SO WAS THE LIVID WELT ACROSS HER CHEEK!"
IN ZELLMOTT WE DO NOT HARM SNAKES, HERR CORNING-- NEVER!
HE MEANT NO HARM BY IT. LEAVE US ALONE!


"WITH A FINAL SAVAGE GLANCE, THE OLD CROW LEFT THEN, AT THE DOOR OF MY ROOM, MY PANICKY STATE WAS PARTIALLY QUIETED BY GILDA'S HAUNTING SMILE AND GENTLE VOICE "
DO NOT BECOME ALARMED BY MY MOTHER'S ANGER. SHE DETESTS CRUELTY AGAINST ALL CREATURES-- EVEN SNAKES!
BUT WAS IT A SNAKE, GILDA?

OF COURSE MICHAEL-- WHAT ELSE? COME NOW, AFTER A NIGHT'S REST YOU WILL HAVE FORGOTTEN IT GOOD NIGHT, AND SLEEP WELL!
ALL RIGHT, GILDA I'LL SEE YOU IN THE MORNING.


"WHEN MORNING CAME "
WHAT SORT OF VILLAGE IS THIS, GILDA? I HAVE SEEN NO PEOPLE, AND LAST NIGHT
NO QUESTIONS NOW, MICHAEL! GO TO THE MOUNTAIN NEAR ITS PEAK YOU WILL FIND A CAVERN I WILL MEET YOU THERE LATER, AND EXPLAIN ALL

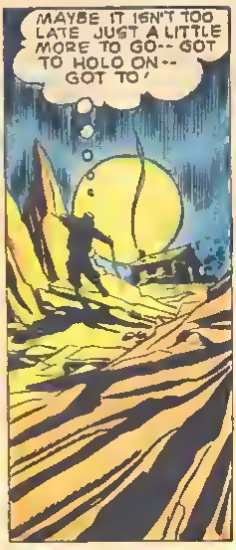

"SOMEHOW, HER WORDS WERE LIKE A COMMAND-- A COMMAND I FELT IMPELLED TO OBEY ALL THAT MORNING I STRUGGLED UP THE STEEP SLOPES, AND WITH EVERY STEP IT SEEMED AS THOUGH I COULD HEAR GILDA'S HAUNTING VOICE CALLING TO ME FROM ABOVE, URGING ME ON "
THE CAVERN AT LAST! SHE MUST BE INSIDE, WAITING FOR ME!

"THE MOMENT I ENTERED, I WAS SEIZED BY A PARALYZING FEAR, AND THEN I SAW THE UNSPEAKABLE HORROR WHICH TORE THE SINGLE WORD FROM MY LIPS!"
GILDA!
WE HAVE AWAITED YOUR ARRIVAL, MICHAEL. NOW YOU SHALL LEARN THE ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS!

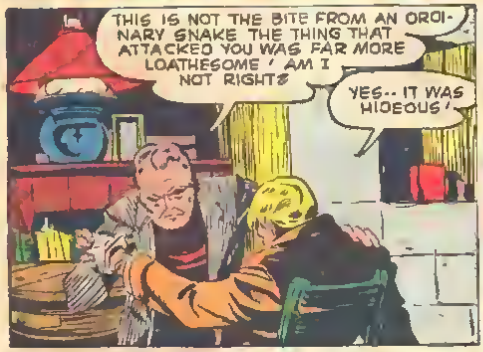
"HALF CRAZED WITH TERROR, I TURNED TO FLEE!"
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE, MICHAEL CORNING! WE CLAIM YOU AS ONE OF US!

A-R-R-G-H!

"WITH MY FINAL STRENGTH I BROKE FREE FROM THE REPULSIVE JAWS, AND FLEEING THE CAVERN, I HALF RAN, HALF SLID DOWN THE MOUNTAIN SIDE. HOURS LATER I REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS."
THAT SNAKE BIT ME! GOT TO FIND HELP-- FAST!

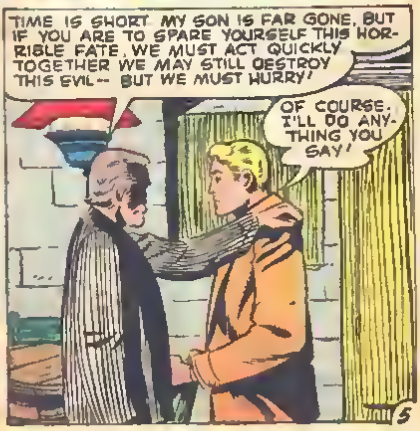

MAYBE IT ISN'T TOO LATE. JUST A LITTLE MORE TO GO-- GOT TO HOLD ON-- GOT TO!

SOMETHING ATTACKED ME ON THE MOUNTAIN-- A SNAKE-- CALL A DOCTOR!
NO DOCTOR CAN CURE YOU!


THIS IS NOT THE BITE FROM AN ORDINARY SNAKE. THE THING THAT ATTACKED YOU WAS FAR MORE LOATHESOME! AM I NOT RIGHT?
YES-- IT WAS HIDEOUS!

YOU ARE THE VICTIM OF THE GREATEST EVIL EVER BROUGHT UPON MAN-- THE ANCIENT SNAKE WORSHIPPERS OF ZELLMOTT HAVE PLACED THEIR MARK UPON YOU!
SNAKE WORSHIPPERS?

"THE OLD MAN SWEPT BACK THE COVERS ON A BED I WAS HORRIFIED!"
MY SON! BITTEN, AS YOU, ONLY TWO WEEKS AGO!


TIME IS SHORT. MY SON IS FAR GONE, BUT IF YOU ARE TO SPARE YOURSELF THIS HORRIBLE FATE, WE MUST ACT QUICKLY TOGETHER WE MAY STILL DESTROY THIS EVIL-- BUT WE MUST HURRY!
OF COURSE. I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY!

"TAKING A SMALL PACKAGE FROM THE CABIN, THE OLD MAN LED THE WAY LATER WHEN WE ENTERED A PASSAGE IN THE MOUNTAIN'S BASE. A FEELING OF HORROR ROSE WITHIN ME."

I DISCOVERED THIS PASSAGE BY CHANCE RECENTLY IT LEADS TO THEIR MEETING PLACE!

"AT THE HEAD OF THE STAIRS, A GRUESOME SIGHT SPRANG INTO VIEW."

THE ONE ON THE THRONE -- SHE IS THE LEADER. THE OTHERS ARE PAST VICTIMS OF HER HIDEOUS EVIL. WE MUST ACT QUICKLY!

MICHAEL CORNING, BLOOD OF OUR BLOOD, STEP FORWARD! I SENSE YOUR PRESENCE AMONGST US, AND THERE CAN BE NO ESCAPE. COME, MICHAEL, COME...

"PERHAPS IT WAS THEIR VENOM FLOWING IN MY VEINS WHICH MADE ME INCAPABLE OF RESISTING HER CALL. I WALKED TOWARD HER, DRAWN TO HER EVIL BEAUTY AS A MOTH TO A FLICKERING FLAME."

WAIT, MY SON! RESIST -- WAIT!

"THEN THE OLD MAN WAS AT MY SIDE, TEARING AT HIS PACKAGE. AND A MOMENT LATER A SPLUTTERING BUNDLE WAS HURLED AT THE SPITTING, WRITHING MASS."

DIE, YOU MONSTROUS FIENDS!

BOOM

"IN ONE DEAFENING BLAST THE CAVERN FLOOR SPLIT OPEN. AND A MOMENT LATER, PIERCING SCREAMS BROKE LOOSE AS THE SNAKE CREATURES TUMBLED FORWARD INTO A BOILING WELL OF SULPHUROUS LIQUID!"

"I SAW GILDA, HER BODY A MASS OF SNAKE-LIKE SCALES, SUBMERGE INTO THE BUBBLING SULPHUR PIT!"
"TEARING MY EYES AWAY FROM THIS LAST AND FINAL HORROR, I FOLLOWED THE OLD MAN DOWN THE PASSAGEWAY AND OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN.."
WE MUST HURRY! EVERY MOMENT WE LOSE THEIR VENOM MIXES FURTHER WITH YOUR BLOOD! BUT THERE MAY STILL BE A WAY OF SAVING YOU, AS WELL AS MY SON!
"UNKNOWN TO ME, THE OLD MAN HAD SCOOPED UP A FLASK OF THE BUBBLING LIQUID FROM THE SULPHUROUS WELL"
SINCE THIS LIQUID WAS ABLE TO DESTROY THEIR EVIL, IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT A SMALL DOSAGE WILL DESTROY THEIR VENOM WHICH STILL FLOWS IN YOUR VEINS! WE SHOULD KNOW IN A FEW DAYS! DRINK IT, MY SON!
"THE EXPERIMENT WAS SUCCESSFUL, AND AS I PREPARED TO LEAVE A WEEK LATER, BOTH HIS SON AND I HAD FULLY RECOVERED THEN, THE OLD MAN SPOKE OF THE VILLAGE.."
ACTUALLY, THE VILLAGE OF ZELLMOTT HAS BEEN DESERTED FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS, EVER SINCE SOME OF ITS INHABITANTS HAD BEEN BURNED AT THE STAKE FOR WITCHCRAFT AND SNAKE WORSHIP!
LET US HOPE THEIR EVIL HAS BEEN DESTROYED FOR ALWAYS!
"BEFORE RETURNING TO THE STATES, I WAS DETERMINED TO GO BACK TO THE TOBACCO SHOP FOR A LAST LOOK. I DIDN'T REALLY EXPECT THE OWNER TO BELIEVE MY STORY"
IT'S FANTASTIC! BESIDES, I WAS CLOSED YOU SAW THE SIGN!
YES, I KNOW I'D HARDLY RECOGNIZE THIS SHOP NOW, BUT IT DID HAPPEN THERE WAS AN OLD WOMAN HERE, AND..
I SEE THAT SNAKE HAS CAUGHT YOUR EYE. MY SON FOUND IT THE OTHER DAY ON A HIKING TRIP NEAR THE DESERTED VILLAGE OF ZELLMOTT. IF YOU'D LIKE TO BUY IT.
THAT BRUISE ON ITS HEAD!
YES! AT ANY PRICE!
"THAT NIGHT, ALONE IN MY ROOM, I THREW THE CURSED THING INTO THE FLAMES"
NOW MY ONLY HOPE AND PRAYER IS THAT I HAVE DESTROYED THE LAST OF THE SNAKE WORSHIPPERS. BUT WHAT IF THERE ARE STILL OTHERS WAITING FOR SOME INNOCENT CUSTOMER IN AN OUT OF THE WAY SHOP? WHAT THEN?
THE END

TRUE TALES of the SUPERNATURAL #1

AMONG A CERTAIN NOBLE FAMILY OF SCOTLAND, THERE WAS A LEGEND THAT IF THE ELDEST MALE IN THE FAMILY SHOULD HEAR THE SOUND OF UNSEEN DRUMS, A TRAGIC DEATH HAD SURELY OCCURRED AT THE SAME MOMENT TO SOMEONE IN THE FAMILY. THE YOUNG EARL OF CLEVES WHO INHERITED THE FAMILY CASTLE IN 1842, HAD OFTEN SCOFFED AT THE LEGEND AS FANTASTICALLY UNTRUE!

IN THE SUMMER OF 1842, THE YOUNG EARL BROUGHT HIS NEW BRIDE TO THE FAMILY CASTLE WHICH HE HAD JUST INHERITED IN SCOTLAND...

THIS IS YOUR NEW HOME, MY DARLING. WE'LL HAVE A LIFETIME OF HAPPINESS IN THIS OLD CASTLE!

IT'S BEAUTIFUL, MY LOVE!

A MONTH LATER, THE YOUNG EARL LEFT HIS LOVELY BRIDE AT HOME, DEPARTING ON A BUSINESS TRIP TO LONDON, WHERE HE ALSO CALLED ON AN OLD FAMILY FRIEND...

WHEN DO YOU PLAN TO RETURN TO SCOTLAND?

TOMORROW, AS SOON AS I COMPLETE MY BUSINESS HERE IN LONDON. OH, SAY, WHAT'S THE OCCASION FOR THE PARADE OUTSIDE I HEAR DRUMS BEATING.

HM M DOMMM

DRUMS? I HEAR NO DRUMS! NOR IS THERE A PARADE PASSING BY. GO SEE FOR YOURSELF!

NOT A SOUL IN SIGHT! YET I DO HEAR DRUMS BEATING! TH-THE FAMILY LEGEND! SOMEONE IN MY FAMILY HAS MET A TRAGIC DEATH! C-COULD IT BE...?

BROOM BROOM

THE EARL HASTENED BACK TO SCOTLAND. HE ARRIVED THE NEXT DAY, ONLY TO FIND THAT HIS BEAUTIFUL YOUNG BRIDE HAD BEEN THROWN FROM HER HORSE THE DAY BEFORE, AND KILLED INSTANTLY IN THE RAVINE BELOW!

OHHHH!

...AND THE EARL HAD HEARD THOSE DRUM-BEATS IN LONDON AT EXACTLY THE VERY SAME MOMENT THAT HIS BRIDE HAD BEEN KILLED IN FAR OFF SCOTLAND!

SO THE LEGEND IS TRUE! BUT WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE YOU? MY POOR DARLING?

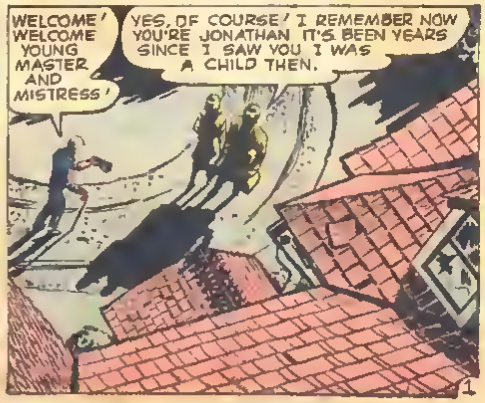
BUT CAN THIS BE TRUE, OR WAS IT ONLY A FIGMENT OF THE EARL'S IMAGINATION? WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE, READERS?

THE END

THE GHOST IN THE PORTRAIT

SEE YON MANSION? IT SPEAKS OF PEACE AND HOME AND LOVE. BUT THERE IS A STORY IN THAT HOUSE, A STORY TO CURDLE YOUR BLOOD!
AN UGLY HATRED, A BURNING LUST FOR REVENGE, HIDDEN IN THE MUSTY DARKNESS OF A TRUNK IN AN ATTIC ROOM, FINDS RELEASE WHEN THE PORTRAIT OF A MAN LONG DEAD IS UNCOVERED. FOR THERE IS EVIL IN THE PAINTING, AND AWESOME HORROR FOLLOWS THE TRAIL OF THE GHOST IN THE PORTRAIT!

SEE THE GENTLE HILLS OF OUR NORTH ENGLAND COUNTRYSIDE? IT IS THE KIND OF COUNTRY WHERE A BODY SHOULD FIND PEACE. BUT THAT WASN'T SO, FOR HERE, THERE WAS ONLY TERROR AND DEATH


"ONCE, THIS MANSION WAS LONG UNOCCUPIED, EXCEPT BY ME, THE CARETAKER. BUT THERE WERE WELCOME VISITORS ONE SEPTEMBER AFTERNOON .."
WELCOME! WELCOME YOUNG MASTER AND MISTRESS!
YES, OF COURSE! I REMEMBER NOW YOU'RE JONATHAN. IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I SAW YOU. I WAS A CHILD THEN.

AYE AND YOU'VE GROWN INTO A FINE MAN, PETER YOU'RE YOUR FATHER'S SON TO THE IMAGE
THANKS, JONATHAN BUT NOW WE'RE TIRED PLEASE SHOW US TO OUR ROOMS
PETER, I--I WISH YOU AND YOUR BRIDE WOULD NOT STAY IN THIS HOUSE I CAN MAKE ARRANGE-MENTS AT THE INN
WHAT IS THIS NON-SENSE, JONATHAN? YOU KNOW WE INTEND TO LIVE HERE THE HOUSE IS MINE IT'S BEEN IN THE FAMILY FOR GENERATIONS
'TIS AN EVIL HOUSE--ACCURSED! BUT YOU'RE YOUNG YOU WON'T LISTEN. ONE THING, PETER. IN THE ATTIC IS AN OLD IRON TRUNK, SEALED WITH MELTED SILVER. DO NOT OPEN THIS TRUNK
JONATHAN, JONATHAN. YOU'RE A FOOLISH OLD MAN! STOP PRATTING, AND LET'S GO IN!
HOW DO YOU LIKE IT, MADELEINE?
I DON'T KNOW I SUPPOSE I'LL GET USED TO THE PLACE
"SO THEY MOVED INTO THE HOUSE, AND A FEW DAYS LATER . . "
AH, HERE IT IS! THE TRUNK. JONATHAN DESCRIBED WELL, I'LL SOON FIND OUT THE MYSTERY OF THE LOCKED TRUNK. JONATHAN! OH, JONATHAN!
YOU CALLED ME, PETER? OH, YOU'VE FOUND IT! PLEASE, SIR, DON'T DISTURB THE TRUNK LET IT STAY HERE WITH ITS CONTENTS!
YOU'VE WHETTED MY CURI-OSITY, JONATHAN NOTHING CAN KEEP ME FROM FIND-ING OUT WHAT'S IN IT COME, MAN, GIVE ME A HAND CARRYING IT DOWNSTAIRS
I'M OBEYING ORDERS, SIR BUT IT'S AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGMENT. THERE IS TERRIBLE EVIL LOCKED IN THIS TRUNK!
STOP IT NOW JONATHAN YOU'RE JUST REPEATING OLD WIVES' TALES THERE'S NOTHING IN THIS TRUNK THAT CAN CAUSE ANYONE ANY TROUBLE
2

"DESPITE MY ENTREATIES, THE MASTER OPENED THE TRUNK IN THE LIBRARY..."
I BEG OF YOU, SIR, DON'T OPEN THE TRUNK!
IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT, JONATHAN IT'S OPEN, AS YOU CAN SEE. NOW, TO LEARN WHAT'S IN HERE-- WHAT THIS TERRIBLE "EVIL" IS.
WHY-- WHY, PETER--THE PORTRAIT LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE YOU!
YES, SO IT DOES!
AYE 'TIS THE PORTRAIT OF YOUR GREAT GRANDFATHER, PETER WARREN, THE FIRST.
SIR, DON'T HANG THE PORTRAIT IT WILL BRING EVIL ON YOU IT IS ACCURSED
LISTEN TO HIM, PETER THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THE PORTRAIT, THE EYES-- I'M AFRAID! AND THIS OLD HOUSE
NONSENSE! DON'T BE A SILLY LITTLE GOOSE, DARLING! NOTHING CAN HURT US WE'RE IN LOVE, AND WE HAVE YEARS OF HAPPINESS BEFORE US
"IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, THE PORTRAIT WAS LIKE A MAGNET TO YOUNG PETER. HE WOULD SPEND HOURS STARING AT IT AYE, AND TALKING TO IT"
WHAT LIES BEHIND YOUR EYES? IT IS AS THOUGH YOU ARE TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING. TELL ME YOUR SECRET. SPEAK-- TELL ME YOUR SECRET!
"THEN CAME THAT FIRST AWFUL NIGHT."
WHO-- WHO ARE YOU?
YOUR GREAT GRANDFATHER'S GHOST, PETER!
THANKS TO YOU, I'VE FOUND RELEASE WHEN YOU TOOK THE TRUNK, AND BROKE THE SEAL OF MELTED SILVER, AND REMOVED MY PORTRAIT, YOU FREED ME-- TO TAKE MY REVENGE!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? WHAT KIND OF REVENGE?
I SHALL PAY BACK THE JURY THAT CONVICTED ME TO BE HANGED WHEN I KILLED MY WIFE IN A FIT OF ANGER. I SHALL TEAR OPEN THEIR GRAVES AND DISTURB THEIR SOULS BY SCATTERING THEIR BONES! THAT IS MY FIRST ACT, NOW THAT I AM FREE!
3

"AND THUS THE EVIL GHOST WENT ON HIS GHOULISH MISSION. I WAS PASSING THE CEMETERY THAT NIGHT, AND SAW ALL!"
THOSE FOOLS WHO CONDEMNED ME SHALL PAY AFTER ALL THESE YEARS. THEY HAVE RESTED WHILE I HAVE SUFFERED THE TORTURES OF THE DAMNED, DOOMED TO THE TERRIBLE FATE OF THOSE WHO DIE UNSHRIVEN!
THERE THEY LIE, IN THE QUIET CEMETERY WHICH SHALL BE QUIET AND PEACEFUL NO MORE!
THIS IS THE GRAVE OF ROGER WATSON, WHO WAS THE FOREMAN OF THE JURY. HE SHALL BE FIRST TO FEEL MY WRATH!
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE DISTURBED? YOU FOOL! DID YOU THINK YOU COULD STRIKE DOWN PETER WARREN, WITHOUT KNOWING THE WEIGHT OF MY VENGEANCE?
ROGER WATSON
"THE SHADE OF PETER WARREN FINISHED HIS FOUL TASK! HE DESECRATED EACH GRAVE OF THE JURYMEN WHO HAD SENT HIM TO THE GALLOWS, SO MANY YEARS BEFORE!"
"BUT AS THE FIRST TINGES OF DAWN APPEARED IN THE EAST"
THE DEED IS DONE! NOW I MUST GO BACK. FOR I CAN WANDER ONLY BEFORE THE LIGHT OF MORNING BACK TO THE CANVAS THAT HOUSES MY SPIRIT!
"AND WHILE PETER STILL WATCHED, THE PHANTOM RETURNED, HIS EVIL SPIRIT ONCE MORE ENSHROUDED IN HIS CANVAS TOMB!"
IT'S TRUE! I HAVE NOT BEEN DREAMING!

"I TOLD PETER ABOUT THE DESECRATED GRAVES THE NEXT MORNING..."

PETER! TWELVE GRAVES HAVE BEEN DESECRATED IN THE VALLEY. YOU MUST TAKE DOWN THE PORTRAIT. I KNOW WHAT I AM SAYING. HANGING IT HAS RELEASED THE GHOST OF YOUR ANCESTOR.

GET OUT OF HERE, YOU OLD FOOL!

PETER, JONATHAN IS RIGHT. THE PORTRAIT IS EVIL!

THE PORTRAIT STAYS WHERE IT IS! I AM THE MASTER OF THIS HOUSE! I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS IN THE VALLEY!

OH-- PETER!

THE EVIL OF THE PORTRAIT HAS WORKED ON YOU. IT HAS CAST ITS SPELL, AND TRAPPED YOU.

GET AWAY FROM ME! LET ME ALONE!

"THAT NIGHT A WILD STORM BROKE FROM THE HILLS. AND WHILE GREAT BOLTS OF LIGHTNING RENDED THE SKY, PETER WARREN HELD A RENDEZVOUS WITH THE GHOST..."

CAN THIS ALL BE TRUE? CAN IT BE HAPPENING? OR ARE YOU A FIGMENT OF MY BRAIN? PERHAPS I AM ILL-- PERHAPS MY MIND HAS BEEN PLAYING TRICKS...

NO, I AM HERE. ALREADY I HAVE PAID BACK THE TWELVE OF THEM-- A DEBT THAT HAS BEEN LONG OUTSTANDING. BUT TONIGHT I SHALL FIND THE REST I HAVE SOUGHT FOR MANY YEARS...

I WAS A MURDERER. AND WENT TO MY GRAVE UNSHRIVEN, CURSED TO ETERNAL IMPRISONMENT IN MY OWN PORTRAIT TO PONDER ON MY EVIL DEED, UNTIL...

YES, UNTIL ONE OF MY OWN BLOOD HAS COMMITTED THE SAME KIND OF CRIME, AND DIED ON THE GALLOWS AS I DID!

"MEANWHILE..."
SINCE THAT PORTRAIT HAS BEEN HANGING, PETER IS A CHANGED MAN HE IS CRUEL AND VICIOUS. I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS ANYMORE I'LL GO DOWNSTAIRS AND FACE HIM
PETER! I WANT TO TALK WITH YOU I-- THE PORTRAIT! THE CANVAS IS BLANK, AND STANDING NEXT TO YOU IS---
YES! THE GHOST OF PETER WARREN THE FIRST!
GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM, MADELEINE!
NO! SHE WILL STAY FOR SHE HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE FINAL ACT OF OUR DRAMA.
PETER! DRIVE HIM AWAY! I'M FRIGHTENED!
AS I HAVE TOLD YOU, PETER, I WENT TO MY DEATH UNSHRIVEN, AND THIS CURSE IS UPON ME UNTIL ONE OF MY OWN BLOOD COMMITS THE SAME KIND OF CRIME, AND DIES THE SAME DEATH I DID!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
YOU SHALL NOT DIE AT MY HANDS, BUT AT YOUR HUSBAND'S! HE WILL DO AS I BID, FOR I HAVE CAST A SPELL ON HIM. HE WILL KILL YOU, BE HANGED FOR THE MURDER, AND I SHALL THEN FIND ETERNAL REST!
HELP! HELP!
THERE IS NO HELP! NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU ABOVE THE WIND AND THUNDER! IT IS A FIT NIGHT FOR THIS DEED!
KILL HER! PLACE YOUR HANDS ON HER THROAT AND STRANGLE HER, AS I KILLED MY WIFE! DO YOU HEAR?
I HEAR!
6

NO, PETER! I LOVE YOU! OH, MY DARLING, LISTEN TO ME! I LOVE YOU!
HA! HA! HA! CRINGE, BEG, PRAY-- IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD! HE WILL OBEY ONLY ME!
"BUT AS THOUGH SOME POWERFUL, SUPERNATURAL FORCE WANTED TO DEFEAT THE FIENDISH PLOT OF THE GHOST, A BOLT OF LIGHTNING STREAKED BLINDINGLY INTO THE ROOM, STRIKING THE WALL, AND HURLING THE CANVAS TO THE FLOOR."
"WITH HER LAST REMAINING STRENGTH, MADELEINE MANAGED TO PUSH PETER FROM HER..."
KILL HER!
THE CANVAS! IF I DESTROY THE CANVAS!
NOW! YOUR LAIR WILL BE DESTROYED! AND YOU SHALL BE CONSUMED WITH IT!
AAAH!
YOU AND ALL YOUR EVIL SHALL DISAPPEAR IN THE FIRE!
"WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF THE GHOST, PETER WAS RELEASED FROM THE SPELL!"
MADELEINE -- WHAT HAPPENED? I-- I HAD A HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE!
I KNOW, MY DARLING. BUT THERE IS NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF ANYMORE.
AND THAT'S THE STORY THESE TWO YOUNG PEOPLE DEFEATED THE SINISTER EVIL THAT WOULD HAVE DESTROYED THEM. NOW, WHERE THERE WAS HATRED AND UNHAPPINESS, THERE IS ONLY LOVE AND JOY!
The End.

TRUE TALES of the SUPERNATURAL

#25

THERE IS A LEGEND ABOUT A GHOST-INFESTED CELL IN A CERTAIN JAIL IN NEW ORLEANS. A LITTLE OLD LADY BY THE NAME OF PEGGY TATE HAD COMMITTED SUICIDE BY HANGING HERSELF IN THIS CELL. SINCE THEN, 12 OTHER PRISONERS HAD TRIED TO DESTROY THEMSELVES, ALSO BY HANGING. FOUR OF THE ATTEMPTS HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL. BUT NOT ONE OF THE SURVIVORS HAD DARED TELL WHY THEY TRIED TO HANG THEMSELVES!

THEN, ONE NIGHT IN 1903, A 13TH PRISONER TRIED TO HANG HERSELF IN IN THAT VERY SAME CELL!

GOOD HEAVENS! ANOTHER SUICIDE IN PEGGY TATE'S OLD CELL!

ONLY THE SWIFT ACTION OF AN ALERT GUARD WHO CUT THE ROPE SAVED THE LIFE OF THE UNFORTUNATE GIRL...

YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT NOW, MISS. BUT WHAT MADE YOU DO IT?

IT WAS THE GHOST OF PEGGY TATE... SHE MADE ME DO IT!

"THERE WAS A SUDDEN FLASH OF LIGHT IN MY DARK CELL, AND I SAW THE GHOST OF OLD PEG GLARING AT ME"

THIS IS MY HOME, LITTLE ONE! YOU WILL OBEY ME AS THE OTHER TWELVE FOOLISH INTRUDERS DID! YOU MUST HANG, AS I DID!

OH, NO. NO!

"HER EVIL VOICE WAS SO COMPELLING THAT I HAD NO WILL TO RESIST HER COMMANDS! I WAS TOLD TO TEAR STRIPS FROM MY DRESS AND FASHION A 'ROPE' WITH A NOOSE AT THE END!"

NOW TIE THE ROPE TO THAT BEAM, JUST AS I DID LONG AGO. THEN PUT YOUR NECK INTO THE NOOSE AND JUMP FROM THE COT! HURRY!

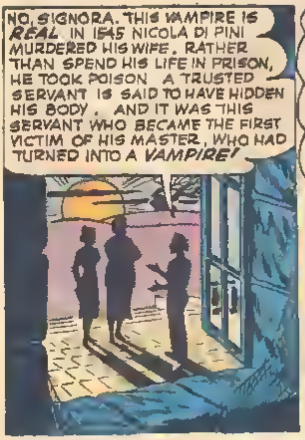
"I DID AS SHE COMMANDED ME! AND EVEN AS THE NOOSE TIGHTENED AROUND MY THROAT, I COULD HEAR HER EVIL LAUGHTER!"

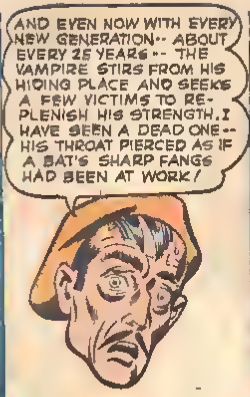
HA! HA! NO ONE SHALL LIVE IN THIS CELL! I DIED HERE, AND MY SPIRIT SHALL ABIDE HERE ETERNALLY! HA! HA!

ONLY THIS YOUNG GIRL HAD HAD THE COURAGE TO TELL HER STORY ABOUT THE HORRIFYING APPEARANCE OF THE OLD LADY'S GHOST! AFTER THIS INCIDENT, THE CELL WAS DISCARDED, AND NEVER USED AGAIN TO HOUSE A PRISONER. DID SHE REALLY SEE THE GHOST, OR DID SHE ONLY IMAGINE IT? JUST ANOTHER UNEXPLAINED MYSTERY IN THE ANNALS OF THE SUPERNATURAL!

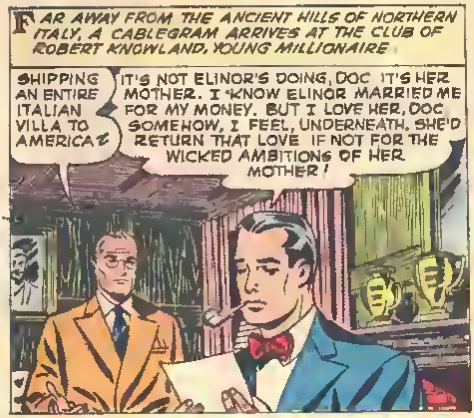
THE END

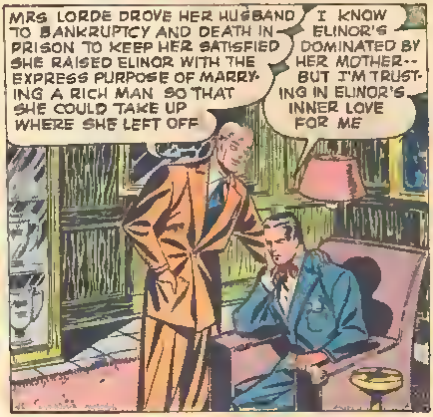
VILLA OF THE VAMPIRE
A FULL MOON RISES OVER THE VILLA DI PINI A SHAFT OF SILVER PENETRATES THE HIDDEN CRYPT OF A MONSTER WHO HAS SLAIN THREE VICTIMS EVERY GENERATION FOR OVER 400 YEARS! A GLEAM OF LIGHT TOUCHES THE BLACK-CLAD CORPSE IT STIRS A RED TONGUE MOVES SLOWLY, HUNGRILY OVER DEMONISH LIPS, PARCHED FOR THE LIQUID THAT WILL SUSTAIN ITS FIENDISH LIFE FOR YET ANOTHER 25 YEARS THE VAMPIRE OF THE VILLA DI PINI APPEARS IN THE MOONLIGHT.. IN ALL ITS HORRIFYING AWESOMENESS NOR SHALL THE FIEND RETURN TO HIS HIDING PLACE TILL HE HAS DRAINED THE BLOOD FROM THE VEINS OF YET ANOTHER VICTIM!
5
FOR FIFTEEN YEARS THE VILLA DI PINI HAS BEEN FOR SALE AND NOW ITS PRICE WAS SUSPICIOUSLY LOW. TO SOME, THIS MAY HAVE SEEMED A BAD OMEN BUT THE PASSION OF MRS INA LORDE FOR SOUVENIR-COLLECTING SURPASSED ALL COMMON SENSE
ROBERT WON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF ALL THINGS TO BRING BACK FROM A EUROPEAN TRIP.. AN ITALIAN VILLA THAT ONCE BELONGED TO THE DI PINI FAMILY! REALLY, MOTHER!
YOUR HUSBAND DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH HIS MONEY! I DO! WE'LL TAKE THE VILLA, LUIGI!
BUT.. UH.. YOU DID NOT TELL YOUR DAUGHTER ABOUT THE MENACE!
UTTER NONSENSE! A VAMPIRE BURIED SOMEWHERE ON THE PREMISES FOOLISH SUPERSTITION!


NO, SIGNORA. THIS VAMPIRE IS REAL IN 1545 NICOLA DI PINI MURDERED HIS WIFE. RATHER THAN SPEND HIS LIFE IN PRISON, HE TOOK POISON. A TRUSTED SERVANT IS SAID TO HAVE HIDDEN HIS BODY. AND IT WAS THIS SERVANT WHO BECAME THE FIRST VICTIM OF HIS MASTER, WHO HAD TURNED INTO A VAMPIRE!


AND EVEN NOW WITH EVERY NEW GENERATION-- ABOUT EVERY 25 YEARS -- THE VAMPIRE STIRS FROM HIS HIDING PLACE AND SEEKS A FEW VICTIMS TO REPLENISH HIS STRENGTH. I HAVE SEEN A DEAD ONE-- HIS THROAT PIERCED AS IF A BAT'S SHARP FANGS HAD BEEN AT WORK!

YOU MEAN, THIS VAMPIRE IS CONCEALED SOMEWHERE IN THE VILLA, AND WE'LL BE TAKING IT WITH US TO AMERICA?
I DON'T BELIEVE IN SUCH NONSENSE, ELINOR WE'RE TAKING THE VILLA, LUIGI! GO TO WORK AT ONCE!


FAR AWAY FROM THE ANCIENT HILLS OF NORTHERN ITALY, A CABLEGRAM ARRIVES AT THE CLUB OF ROBERT KNOWLAND, YOUNG MILLIONAIRE
SHIPPING AN ENTIRE ITALIAN VILLA TO AMERICA?
IT'S NOT ELINOR'S DOING, DOC. IT'S HER MOTHER. I KNOW ELINOR MARRIED ME FOR MY MONEY. BUT I LOVE HER, DOC. SOMEHOW, I FEEL, UNDERNEATH, SHE'D RETURN THAT LOVE IF NOT FOR THE WICKED AMBITIONS OF HER MOTHER!

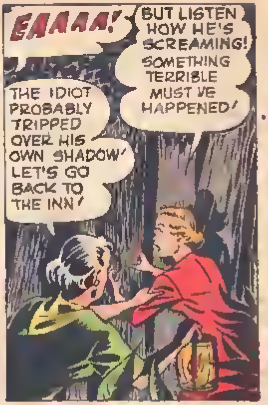

MRS. LORDE DROVE HER HUSBAND TO BANKRUPTCY AND DEATH IN PRISON TO KEEP HER SATISFIED. SHE RAISED ELINOR WITH THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF MARRYING A RICH MAN SO THAT SHE COULD TAKE UP WHERE SHE LEFT OFF
I KNOW ELINOR'S DOMINATED BY HER MOTHER-- BUT I'M TRUSTING IN ELINOR'S INNER LOVE FOR ME

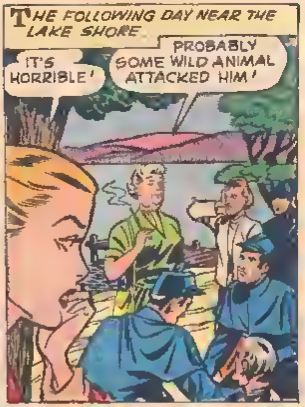
MEANWHILE, ACROSS THE SEA, AS THE FULL MOON SUFFUSES THE NIGHT WITH EERIE BEAUTY
SORRY, SIGNORA. I CANNOT TAKE THE BOAT OUT. THE VAMPIRE MAY WALK TONIGHT!
WE CAN GO BOATING ON THE LAKE ANOTHER NIGHT, MOTHER

NO! I'LL SHOW YOU MONEY IS MORE POWERFUL THAN SUPERSTITION!

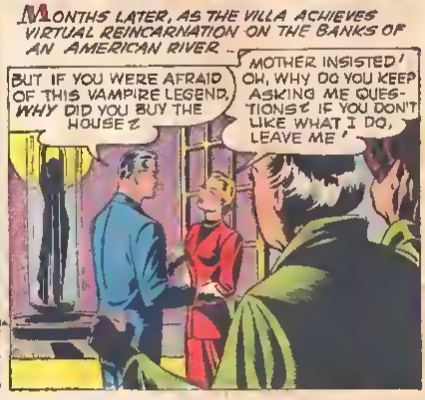
T-TEN THOUSAND LIRE TO TAKE THE SIGNORA AND HER DAUGHTER BOATING? SURELY THE SIGNORA JESTS!
DOES THAT LOOK LIKE A JEST? WHO WILL TAKE IT?
WHAT DO YOU SAY NOW TO THE POWER OF MONEY?
THE SIGNORA HAS DONE A WRONG THING. SOMEBODY WILL DIE FOR THAT TEN THOUSAND LIRE!
SOON THERE'S OUR VILLA BY MOONLIGHT. WHAT'S SO FRIGHTENING ABOUT IT? FEAR OF VAMPIRES WENT OUT WITH THE MIDDLE AGES!
ALL THE SAME, SIGNORA, WE HOPE WHEN YOU TAKE THE VILLA TO AMERICA, THE VAMPIRE WILL GO WITH YOU!
SHORTLY AFTER
ALFREDO, I LEFT MY SHAWL AT THE BOAT-DOCK. GO BACK AND GET IT. WE'LL WAIT FOR YOU HERE
B-BUT, SIGNORA, IT IS ALMOST HALF A MILE-- THROUGH THE DARK WOOD!
AT LEAST LEND ME YOUR LANTERN, SIGNORA
WHAT IS THERE IN THIS FOREST TO BE AFRAID OF? HOOT OWLS? MOSQUITOES? OFF WITH YOU, YOU FOOL!
WITH LEADEN FEET, ALFREDO CREEPS THROUGH THE SHADOWY DARKNESS, QUAKING AT EVERY STEP, TREMBLING AT THE SOUND OF HIS OWN HEAVY BREATHING
FOR MANY YEARS THE VAMPIRE HAS LEFT THE PEOPLE OF OUR VILLAGE ALONE. NOW PERHAPS THIS VOYAGE TO AMERICA MAY AROUSE HIM ONCE MORE. W-WE WERE ALL MAD TO DO THE SIGNORA'S BIDDING!
3.

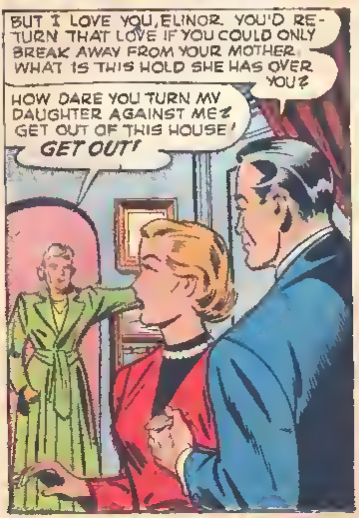
(GASP!) T-THE VAMPIRE!

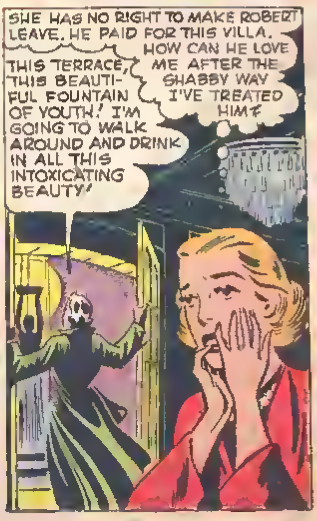

EAAAA!
BUT LISTEN HOW HE'S SCREAMING! SOMETHING TERRIBLE MUST'VE HAPPENED!
THE IDIOT PROBABLY TRIPPED OVER HIS OWN SHADOW! LET'S GO BACK TO THE INN!


THE FOLLOWING DAY NEAR THE LAKE SHORE...
IT'S HORRIBLE!
PROBABLY SOME WILD ANIMAL ATTACKED HIM!

LATER...
FORGET THE KILLING, ELINOR. THINK ABOUT LIVING IN THIS BEAUTIFUL VILLA BACK HOME!
NOTHING ABOUT THIS VILLA IS BEAUTIFUL. IT'S REPULSIVE -- FRIGHTENING! I'M SORRY I EVER SAW IT!


MONTHS LATER, AS THE VILLA ACHIEVES VIRTUAL REINCARNATION ON THE BANKS OF AN AMERICAN RIVER...
BUT IF YOU WERE AFRAID OF THIS VAMPIRE LEGEND, WHY DID YOU BUY THE HOUSE?
MOTHER INSISTED! OH, WHY DO YOU KEEP ASKING ME QUESTIONS? IF YOU DON'T LIKE WHAT I DO, LEAVE ME!


BUT I LOVE YOU, ELINOR. YOU'D RETURN THAT LOVE IF YOU COULD ONLY BREAK AWAY FROM YOUR MOTHER. WHAT IS THIS HOLD SHE HAS OVER YOU?
HOW DARE YOU TURN MY DAUGHTER AGAINST ME? GET OUT OF THIS HOUSE!
GET OUT!


SHE HAS NO RIGHT TO MAKE ROBERT LEAVE. HE PAID FOR THIS VILLA. HOW CAN HE LOVE ME AFTER THE SHABBY WAY I'VE TREATED HIM?
THIS TERRACE, THIS BEAUTIFUL FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH! I'M GOING TO WALK AROUND AND DRINK IN ALL THIS INTOXICATING BEAUTY!

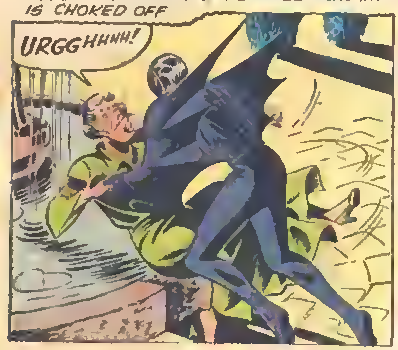
AND AS MRS LORDE WALKS AND EXULTS, THE FULL MOON GROWS BRIGHTER AND BLOODIER -- TILL THE MOONBEAMS THEMSELVES TURN INTO REDDENED GOLD.

AT THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH, A CRACK APPEARS IN THE STATUE. AN EVER WIDENING OPENING

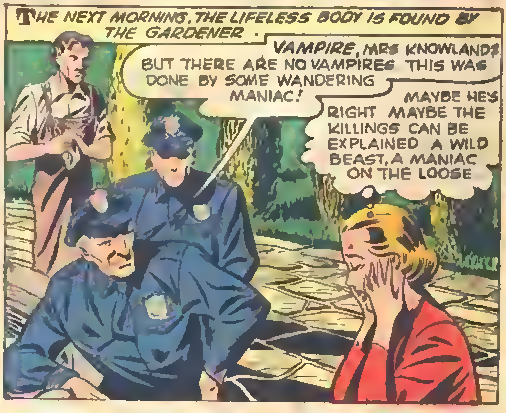
A HAIRY HAND, WITH LONG CLAW-LIKE NAILS COMES FORTH.

AND THEN THE KIND OF FACE ONE SEES ONLY IN NIGHTMARES.

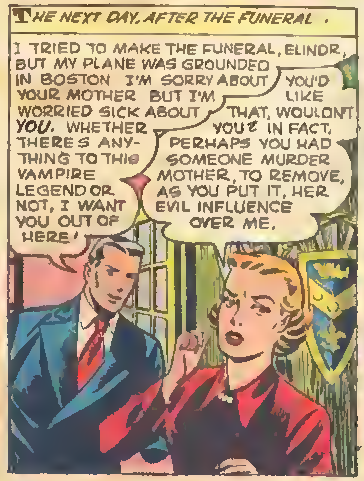
BUT THIS IS NO DREAM. MRS LORDE SHRINKS FROM THE BAT-LIKE SHAPE. HER EYES WIDEN WITH HORROR. A STIFLED SCREAM IS CHOKED OFF

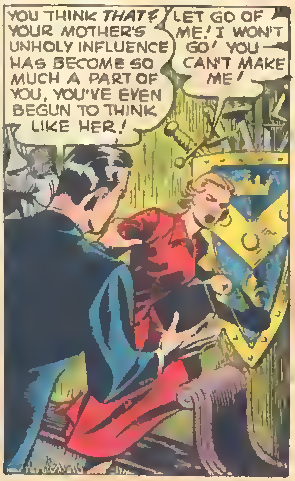


THE NEXT MORNING, THE LIFELESS BODY IS FOUND BY THE GARDENER.

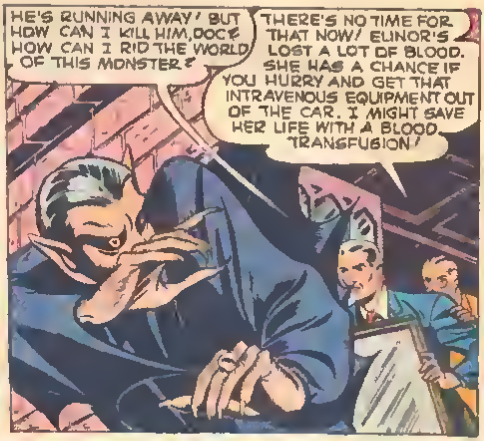

VAMPIRE, MRS KNOWLAND? BUT THERE ARE NO VAMPIRES. THIS WAS DONE BY SOME WANDERING MANIAC!
MAYBE HE'S RIGHT. MAYBE THE KILLINGS CAN BE EXPLAINED. A WILD BEAST, A MANIAC ON THE LOOSE

THE NEXT DAY, AFTER THE FUNERAL.


I TRIED TO MAKE THE FUNERAL, ELINOR, BUT MY PLANE WAS GROUNDED IN BOSTON. I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR MOTHER. BUT I'M WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU. WHETHER THERE'S ANYTHING TO THIS VAMPIRE LEGEND OR NOT, I WANT YOU OUT OF HERE!
YOU'D LIKE THAT, WOULDN'T YOU? IN FACT, PERHAPS YOU HAD SOMEONE MURDER MOTHER, TO REMOVE, AS YOU PUT IT, HER EVIL INFLUENCE OVER ME.


YOU THINK THAT? YOUR MOTHER'S UNHOLY INFLUENCE HAS BECOME SO MUCH A PART OF YOU, YOU'VE EVEN BEGUN TO THINK LIKE HER!
LET GO OF ME! I WON'T GO! YOU CAN'T MAKE ME!

AT DOC BREWER'S OFFICE...
DO I BELIEVE IN VAMPIRES? NO BUT MANY STRANGE THINGS HAPPEN THAT CAN'T BE EXPLAINED AWAY BY SCIENCE BUT I'D WORRY MORE ABOUT ELINOR'S BEHAVIOR
SHE'S STILL UNDER HER MOTHER'S INFLUENCE I MUST BE AT THE VILLA DI PINI THE NEXT NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON I DON'T DARE LEAVE HER ALONE, VAMPIRE OR NO VAMPIRE!
THE MONTH PASSES SWIFTLY, THEN, ONE NIGHT...
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG, DOC? YOU KNOW I WANTED TO BE AT THE VILLA IN TIME FOR THE FULL MOON.
COULDN'T HELP IT, BOB. MY PATIENT WAS PRETTY LOW AND TO GIVE HIM GLUCOSE INTRAVENOUSLY THAT TAKES TIME. STOW THIS TRANSFUSION APPARATUS IN THE BACK OF YOUR CAR
AT THE VILLA, A FIGURE OUT OF THE PAST STALKS SILENTLY TOWARD THE LIBRARY. A FIGURE NEITHER DEAD NOR ALIVE... AND ALL THE MORE HORRIBLE FOR IT!
STRANGE I THOUGHT I HEARD A SOUND ON THE TERRACE. THE SERVANTS WENT OFF FOR THE NIGHT
AIEEE!
STAY AWAY FROM ME! OH, H-HELP! HELP!
MOMENTS LATER, OUTSIDE
THAT'S ODD THAT STATUE IS OPEN. IS IT SUPPOSED TO BE HOLLOW?
EEEEEE!
LISTEN! A SCREAM! IT'S ELINOR!
IF THAT FIEND'S KILLED HER, I'LL KILL HIM WITH MY BARE HANDS!
NO, BOB! DON'T GO NEAR HIM! HE'S NOT HUMAN. NOBODY CAN FIGHT A VAMPIRE WITH MORTAL WEAPONS! TAKE THIS MIRROR. THE IMAGE OF HIMSELF IS SUPPOSED TO DRIVE HIM AWAY!

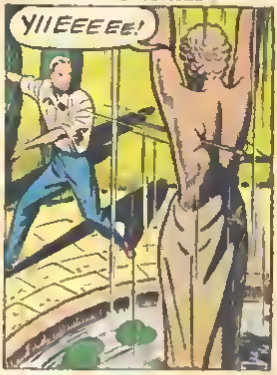

HE'S RUNNING AWAY! BUT HOW CAN I KILL HIM, DOC? HOW CAN I RID THE WORLD OF THIS MONSTER?
THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT NOW! ELINOR'S LOST A LOT OF BLOOD. SHE HAS A CHANCE IF YOU HURRY AND GET THAT INTRAVENOUS EQUIPMENT OUT OF THE CAR. I MIGHT SAVE HER LIFE WITH A BLOOD TRANSFUSION!

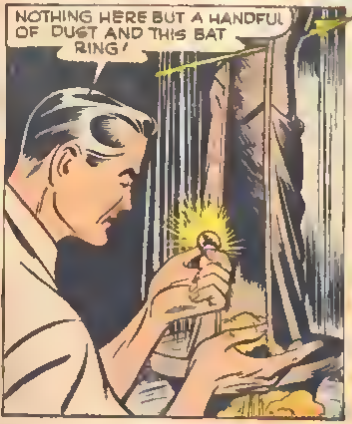
SCIENCE WORKS ITS MIRACLE! MINUTES LATER, AS LIFE-GIVING BLOOD STREAMS IN A SUSTAINING FLOW FROM HUSBAND TO WIFE

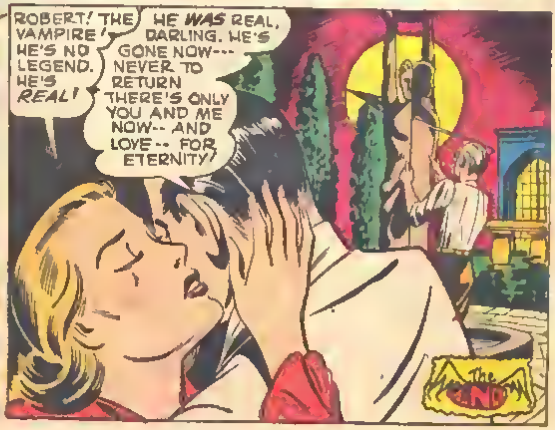
OH, ROBERT-- ROBERT DARLING I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU BUT SOMETHING CAME OVER ME. IT WAS M-MOTHER'S BAD INFLUENCE..
I KNOW, DARLING BUT YOU'RE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT NOW.

YOU'D BETTER LIE DOWN, TOO, BOB YOU GAVE UP AN AWFUL LOT OF BLOOD SAY! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THAT SPEAR?
THEY SAY ONLY A STAKE THROUGH THE HEART CAN KILL A VAMPIRE I'LL SOON FIND OUT!

ROBERT KNOWLAND APPROACHES THE HALF-OPEN STATUE. HIS MUSCULAR ARM DRAWS BACK THE SPEAR IS HURLED!






ROBERT! THE VAMPIRE! HE'S NO LEGEND. HE'S REAL!
HE WAS REAL, DARLING. HE'S GONE NOW--- NEVER TO RETURN THERE'S ONLY YOU AND ME NOW-- AND LOVE-- FOR ETERNITY!
The END

UNBURIED DEAD

I must sit down and write out these notes before it is too late. What you are about to read may sound completely incredible to you, but believe me, there are things existing in this life of ours which no one can comprehend and yet they are here among us. So I ask you to keep an open mind as you read this account of my beloved Helen, who left her body willingly, but couldn't get back. And her body became an unwilling corpse.

True I am only an amateur in the art of hypnotism, but an amateur can learn many forbidden things from the pondering of forgotten books. Perhaps I did skim lightly the pages that gave the check for that horrible experiment. Perhaps—perhaps my mind was not strong enough. Though I do not believe that—for how could I have willed the hideous thing to happen?

True! I did not mean it as it seemed. It must have been the wording of that terrible command.

It is eleven-thirty. Speed is necessary to complete these notes . . .

I had been experimenting with Helen for many months. She trusted me implicitly. And why shouldn't she? I loved her dearly, and she loved me.

After the first month of nightly experiments, she had no control over the matter. I could hypnotize her at will by merely willing it. So how can anyone say my mind is not strong? Strong, and sane. Definitely sane. In fact, too sane, too strong. If mine were a weaker mind, this astral nightmare might never have been a reality.

I was visiting Helen at her little cottage close to my home. Soon we would be married. With her golden, drowsy head upon my shoulder, we talked of the wonderful times we would have. Well, not actually talked—we used words, no sounds. Some call it telepathy. But still, it wasn't that, although the idea was the same.

I would hypnotize Helen, then raise her from sleep until she was on the verge of waking, and hold her there. Then, slightly hypnotizing myself, we could converse freely and tirelessly. Our thoughts belonged to each other.

During one lapse in our thought-conversation, I remembered reading an ancient Persian book about an astral-body experiment. I remembered then, as I sadly do now, that I had never finished the volume. In fact, translating Iranian is so laborious for me that I had only studied the method for releasing the astral-body.

I willed Helen to sit up and carefully mind my thoughts. I told her to close her eyes, and picture in her brain the room about her. To picture before her closed lids the position of the furniture, and the lamps, the discarded book on the floor, and myself.

A few moments passed while she struggled with this new and unusual command. But soon she saw the room clearly and could even through closed lids note the movement of a light curtain as it rustled with a faint breeze. I was exultant, and commanded her to gaze carefully about, without moving her body, until she felt a lightness; and then to arise.

A minute or two passed in silence. A heavy silence that I should have noted as the foreboding of doom. But I was much too interested to sense such things.

Finally she thought, "Now what do I do?"

I told her to arise as I had commanded.

"But I have," she thought.

Helen was still sitting on the couch. Her eyes were closed, and her full regular breathing rustled her dress. Her hands rested gently on her abdomen. But her mind had risen to float in the air beside me. The experiment was a success!

I told her to turn and look at the couch. But hardly had the thoughts formed in my mind when a frightful change came over the shell that sat there. I knew it wasn't Helen, for her mind beside me sought a question.

The lids of Helen's eyes opened ponderously, as though the mind that controlled them wasn't sure of its power. Then the eyes, shockingly wise, and age-old, gazed up at me evilly, as though they could see. Helen's shrieking mind. Shrieking questions—then pleading and begging me to give her back her body.

For a moment my dazed mind didn't grasp what had happened. Then I realized that a homeless wandering earth-spirit had found what he sought, a vacant body—a body with life, but no mind—and had entered it! Helen's body!

He was an old and evil spirit. And as I pleaded with him to leave, he laughed. Laughed mockingly! And I became mad and threatened him, and still he laughed. A triumphant cackle.

Perhaps I did go a little mad then. But who wouldn't who had to view the terrifying things that followed?

Helen's graceful hands twitched spasmodically, as a dope-fiend crazed for the want of drugs, and her pretty mouth, drooling and mouthing, choked sacrilegious invocations.

In the semi-gloom of the room it seemed that Helen's cheeks became hollow and sunken, and that the cheekbones rose. Dark lines appeared under her eyes and spread rapidly about the hollows of her face.

The eyes in the deep-sinking sockets became brighter and brighter, until I was certain they would burst into flame. Their brilliance seemed to add light to the hot room. Helen's lips twisted in a mocking smile, and suddenly I noted that her face was becoming black and aged. Then her golden hair was turning to platinum—to a glowing silver . . .

Within five minutes Helen had become an old woman!

But the transformation had not been finished. The brilliance in her eyes remained, but was dulled a bit as the eyes closed slightly and rose at their corners in an oriental slant. The face became young and beautiful in Asiatic type, almost cherubic, but the dark tint, like deep tan, remained. It spread quickly over Helen's throat and stopped there. As though an invisible hand had drawn a mystic line of demarcation about the base of the column, the spreading ceased. Helen's head had changed to that of a young pale-haired oriental.

Helen's lush body rose jerkily. Her innocent blue eyes, now mocking and inviting, were flecked with blood, and in their black depths was triumph over death.

Yet Helen's mind still floated beside me. Her spirit still sobbed and pleaded in my brain while the demon gained control over her body!

From the depths of Helen's throat came a soft inviting purr, and her lips quivered questioningly. I backed around a table as the nightmare approached. The demon became angry and hastened after me with a hideous rolling stride that caused Helen's body to quiver convulsively. With a triumphant roar the demon leaped upon me and we crashed to the floor. I thrust the horror away with a quick motion and leaped to my feet. The demon snarled and rose to a low crouch. Like an offensive snake, coiled and tensed, sure of its victim, Helen's body crept after me.

Suddenly I knew what to do. I commanded the demon to leave Helen's body or I would destroy him. A mocking purr came from the oriental lips, and the eyes flashed dangerously. He and I both knew that I had no control over his mind.

I side-stepped as the demon lunged, and warned the horror that I still had control over Helen's body. Though Helen's mind was gone, the body from long association with my commands would obey me. It would obey my suggestions even more fully now than when resisted by Helen's subconscious mind.

But still the demon advanced.

So I acted. I commanded the nerves of Helen's body to repel the intruder. The exact words I do not remember. I meant that the body should cease action, and disregard the commands of the demon. But in the nervousness of the moment, I forgot the complete control I had over Helen's poor body. What I meant, and what I said were two different things.

Helen's body took my words literally! Suddenly, a horrifying change came upon her flesh. It bloated and split in a thousand places. The flesh became a flood of seeping blood. Her body was not only expelling the intruder, but its entire nervous system as well!

It was all over in a moment. There was nothing I could do. As the blood, poured away I could see poor Helen's frightful face—a network of fine red lines. Her exposed nerves ran about her flesh like a surrealist dream of feeling.

It's ten minutes to twelve now. Not much time is left. They say I had blood on my hands. Of course I had blood on my hands. Didn't I weep over her poor ruptured body an hour before I called the police? I loved her madly. Perhaps I was out of my mind, for I remember in my madness that I tried all sorts of artificial respiration—anything to revive my shattered love. Perhaps I was mad to do that—anyone could see that she was dead.

Even Helen seems to feel my tenseness as the hour draws near. "Thomas, Thomas!" her mind cries in my brain. "Any body will do, Thomas. You could get me another body—that of a newborn child."

But how can I do what my beloved Helen desires? I am powerless!

They said at the trial that I had murdered my Helen in a manner unknown. I tried to explain, but they wouldn't believe my story. They called me mad! Momentarily insane, yes. I know I was—that's how I got that blood on my hands.

But I didn't kill her! It was a horrible mistake. Why should I kill her? Murder my love? It is all a dream, it must be! This couldn't happen . . .

Two minutes to twelve . . .

I hear their steps in the hall. Echoing gloomily on the cold walls. It will be a relief. True! If I were free, I could find a body for Helen whose shrieking thoughts now madden and torment me. She knows! She knows she is doomed to life everlasting. Life forever in a limbo between light and shadow. But what can I do?

What can I do! What can I do? I know. I have it! Why didn't I think of it before? Nothing to it! Yes, it dooms *me* too, but . . .

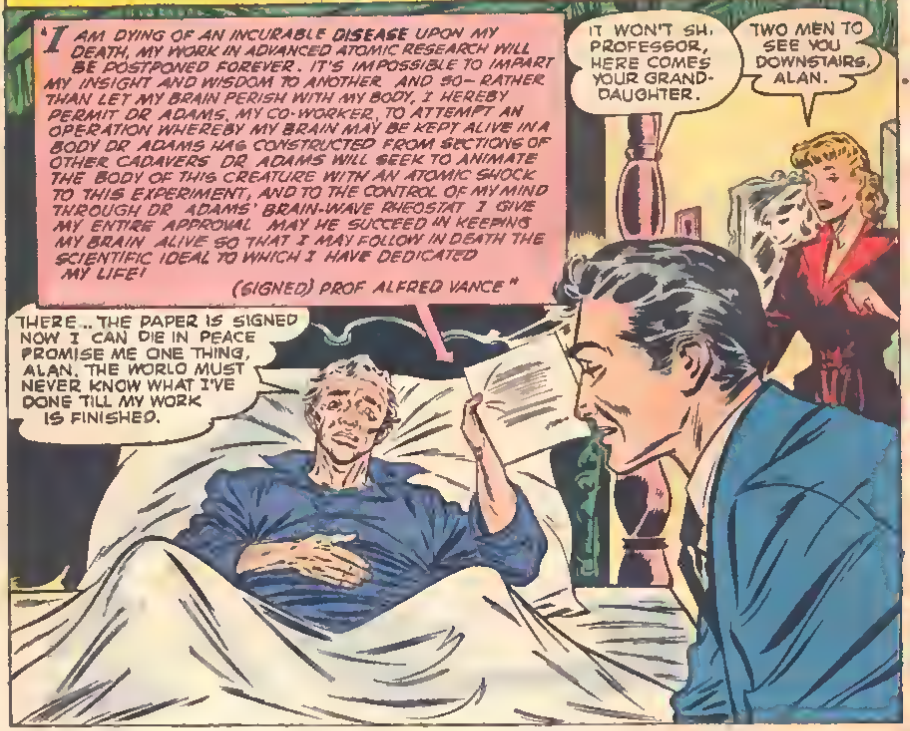
Midnight . . .

They are at the door now. Those hated men who will make certain that the laws of an ignorant court shall hang me by the neck until dead. They are fumbling with the lock. I have a few moments, barely enough—but I can do it. I can do it! I've hypnotized myself numerous times. Only a second is necessary. Merely dropping to sleep—as easy as that—and picturing the room. This cell, about me, and rising . . .

In a moment I will be with Helen. Perhaps our astral bodies can find new homes, and live forever and ever with immortal peace and love.

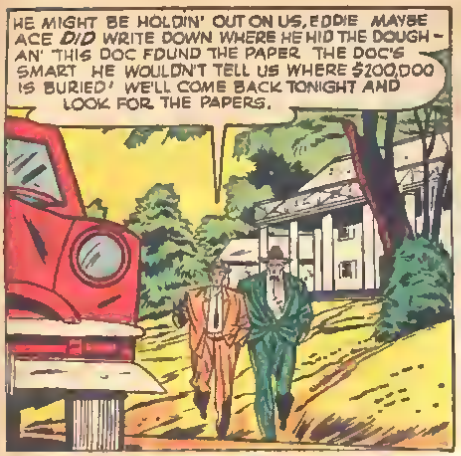
THE END

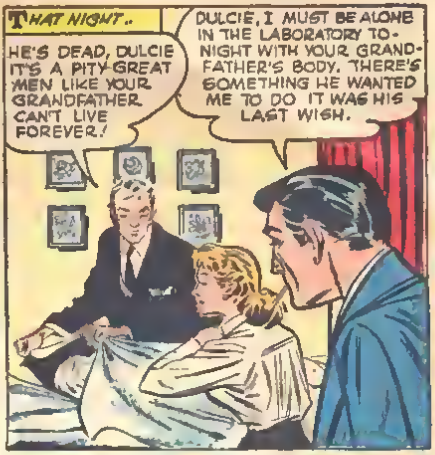
No Grave to Hold Him


"I AM DYING OF AN INCURABLE DISEASE UPON MY DEATH, MY WORK IN ADVANCED ATOMIC RESEARCH WILL BE POSTPONED FOREVER. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO IMPART MY INSIGHT AND WISDOM TO ANOTHER AND SO— RATHER THAN LET MY BRAIN PERISH WITH MY BODY, I HEREBY PERMIT DR ADAMS, MY CO-WORKER, TO ATTEMPT AN OPERATION WHEREBY MY BRAIN MAY BE KEPT ALIVE IN A BODY DR ADAMS HAS CONSTRUCTED FROM SECTIONS OF OTHER CADAVERS DR ADAMS WILL SEEK TO ANIMATE THE BODY OF THIS CREATURE WITH AN ATOMIC SHOCK TO THIS EXPERIMENT, AND TO THE CONTROL OF MY MIND THROUGH DR ADAMS' BRAIN-WAVE RHEOSTAT I GIVE MY ENTIRE APPROVAL MAY HE SUCCEED IN KEEPING MY BRAIN ALIVE SO THAT I MAY FOLLOW IN DEATH THE SCIENTIFIC IDEAL TO WHICH I HAVE DEDICATED MY LIFE!
(SIGNED) PROF ALFRED VANCE"
IT WON'T SH. PROFESSOR, HERE COMES YOUR GRAND-DAUGHTER.
TWO MEN TO SEE YOU DOWNSTAIRS, ALAN.
THERE.. THE PAPER IS SIGNED NOW I CAN DIE IN PEACE PROMISE ME ONE THING, ALAN. THE WORLD MUST NEVER KNOW WHAT I'VE DONE TILL MY WORK IS FINISHED.

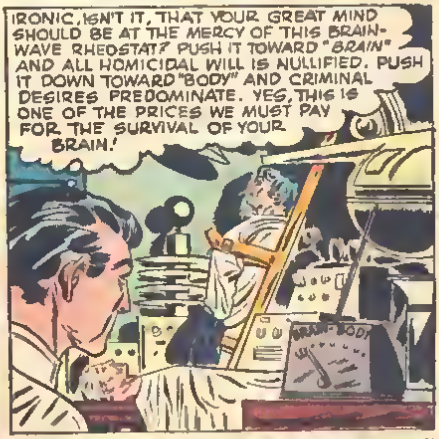
WE'RE PALS OF ACE BROGAN, DOC. ACE WAS EXECUTED LAST WEEK, AN' BEIN' AS NOBODY CLAIMED HIS BODY, WE NEAR THE PRISON GAVE IT TO YOU.
WE WANT ACE'S BODY BACK, DOC WITH ANY PAPERS HE HAD ON HIM!

YOU'RE TOO LATE. I BURNED WHATEVER PAPERS I FOUND. AND THERE'S NOTHING LEFT OF ACE BROGAN'S BODY THAT'S RECOGNIZABLE. AND NOW— EXCUSE ME, I HAVE WORK TO DO.
SURE, DOC.. SURE!

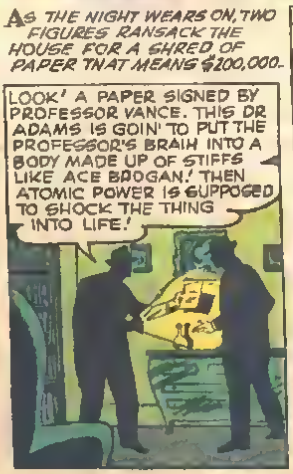

HE MIGHT BE HOLDIN' OUT ON US, EDDIE MAYBE ACE DID WRITE DOWN WHERE HE HID THE DOUGH - AN' THIS DOC FOUND THE PAPER. THE DOC'S SMART. HE WOULDN'T TELL US WHERE $200,000 IS BURIED! WE'LL COME BACK TONIGHT AND LOOK FOR THE PAPERS.


THAT NIGHT..
HE'S DEAD, DULCIE IT'S A PITY GREAT MEN LIKE YOUR GRANDFATHER CAN'T LIVE FOREVER!
DULCIE, I MUST BE ALONE IN THE LABORATORY TONIGHT WITH YOUR GRANDFATHER'S BODY. THERE'S SOMETHING HE WANTED ME TO DO IT WAS HIS LAST WISH.

3O HOURS LATER, IN THE LABORATORY..
IT'S NOT A PRETTY BODY, PROFESSOR. TOO BAD THE ONLY BODIES I COULD GET WERE EXECUTED CRIMINALS LIKE ACE BROGAN.


IRONIC, ISN'T IT, THAT YOUR GREAT MIND SHOULD BE AT THE MERCY OF THIS BRAIN-WAVE RHEOSTAT? PUSH IT TOWARD "BRAIN" AND ALL HOMICIDAL WILL IS NULLIFIED. PUSH IT DOWN TOWARD "BODY" AND CRIMINAL DESIRES PREDOMINATE. YES, THIS IS ONE OF THE PRICES WE MUST PAY FOR THE SURVIVAL OF YOUR BRAIN!
BRAIN
BODY

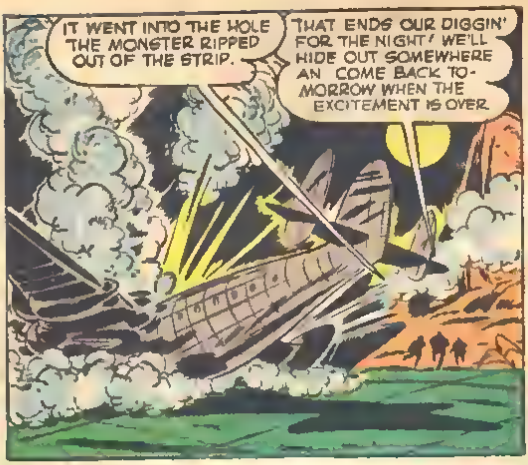
AND SO DR ADAMS BEGINS THE TRANSFERENCE OF THE GENIUS' BRAIN TO A MONSTER'S BODY

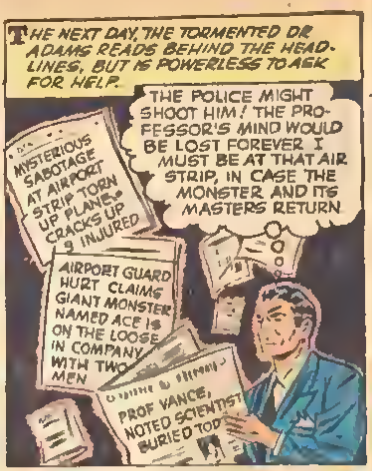

AS THE NIGHT WEARS ON, TWO FIGURES RANSACK THE HOUSE FOR A SHRED OF PAPER THAT MEANS $200,000.
LOOK! A PAPER SIGNED BY PROFESSOR VANCE. THIS DR ADAMS IS GOIN' TO PUT THE PROFESSOR'S BRAIN INTO A BODY MADE UP OF STIFFS LIKE ACE BROGAN! THEN ATOMIC POWER IS SUPPOSED TO SHOCK THE THING INTO LIFE!

MOMENTS LATER, IN THE LABORATORY.
IT'S ON THE LEVEL! THERE'S ADAMS!
WOW! THAT MONSTER'D MAKE FRANKENSTEIN LOOK BEAUTIFUL!

NOW FOR THE SHOCK! IF ONLY THE PROFESSOR'S MIND CAN LIVE AGAIN AND THINK FOR THE BENEFIT OF MANKIND!
THE EYES, THEY'RE OPENIN'! THE MOUTH'S M-MOVIN'!
SPEAK TO ME, PROFESSOR! I'VE SUBDUED THE BODILY INSTINCTS THROUGH THE RHEOSTAT. THE LEVER IS PUSHED FORWARD TOWARD "BRAIN"!
KEEP THE LEVER THAT WAY, ALAN. HAD WE NOT TAKEN EVERY PRECAUTION AND CONSTRUCTED THAT BRAIN-WAVE RHEOSTAT TO GUARANTEE THE POWER OF THE BRAIN OVER THE BODY, OUR EXPERIMENT WOULD HAVE PERPETRATED A CATASTROPHE! WE HAVE CREATED A HORRIBLE MONSTER!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, PROFESSOR?
WE HAVE GIVEN LIFE TO ACE BROGAN'S GLANDULAR SYSTEM! MY BRAIN IS IMPRISONED IN A BODY WITH THE STRENGTH OF TEN BRUTES! IF THAT RHEOSTAT LEVER IS EVER PUSHED THE OTHER WAY, ALAN— MY BRAIN WILL BE POWERLESS TO CONTROL THE VILENESS THAT WILL BE RELEASED.
DID YOU HEAR THAT? GRAB THE RHEOSTAT, EDDIE!
STAY PUT, DOC!
I'M SHOVIN' THE LEVER DOWN! IF ACE BROGAN LIVES AGAIN, HE CAN TAKE US TO THE HIDIN' PLACE OF THE $200,000 HE BURIED SIX MONTHS AGO!
ANOTHER LOOK IS COMING INTO HIS FACE! TURN THE LEVER BACK, YOU FOOLS!
SORRY, DOC, IT'S OUR TURN TO EXPERIMENT! ACE, THIS IS YOUR OLD PAL, EDDIE! GIVE THIS DOC A GOIN' OVER! HE'S IN OUR WAY!
N-NO! NO!
LIFTED HIM LIKE HE WAS A FEATHER!
3

TALK TO HIM, CHICK, BEFORE HE GOES FOR US!
ACE, LISTEN! WE'RE YOUR OLD PALS—EDDIE AN' CHICK! WE DIDN'T DITCH YOU THE NIGHT YOU BURIED THE DOUGH AN' GOT NAILED BY THE COPS!
THE COPS CUT US OFF! WE COULDN'T GET BACK TO HELP YOU! ACE, DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE YOU HID THE PAY-ROLL WE HEISTED?
THE $200 000? OF COURSE I REMEMBER!
HE WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM! GO AHEAD, ACE! TAKE US TO THE DOUGH! WHILE WE GOT THE RHEOSTAT, NOBODY CAN SWITCH YOU BACK TO BEIN' A PROFESSOR!
SHORTLY AFTER, AS THE UPROAR AWAKENS DULCIE..
BUT, ALAN, WHY CAN'T YOU TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED?
BECAUSE IT'S TOO GHASTLY, DULCIE! I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I FIND WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR!
AN HOUR LATER, NEAR THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN..
HE'S POINTIN' AT THE LANDIN' FIELD! HE BURIED THE DOUGH HERE! (GROAN!) AN' THEY JUST BUILT AN AIR-STRIP OVER THE HIDIN' PLACE!
THE TREES I USED FOR MARKERS WERE CUT DOWN!
IF I GAVE ACE SOME OF THE PROFESSOR'S BRAINS, HE COULD FIGURE OUT THE LOCATION, ANYWAY I'LL SHOVE THE BRAIN-WAVE LEVER UP A NOTCH!
HE'S WRITIN' SOMETHIN' ON THE BACK OF AN ENVELOPE! ALL KINDS OF FIGURES AN' FORMULAS
HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE? WHAT ARE YOU MEN DOING OUT HERE ON THIS AIR STRIP?
THAT'S IT, ACE! THROW HIM AWAY!
N-NO! LET ME DOWN! YIIEEE!
NICE WORK, ACE! NOW YOU'RE RIPPIN' OUT THE STRIP OVER THE PLACE WHERE THE DOUGH IS BURIED EH? KEEP GOIN'!
WAIT! HE C-CAN'T DIG NOW! A PLANE IS COMIN' IN FOR A LANDIN'!


IT WENT INTO THE HOLE THE MONSTER RIPPED OUT OF THE STRIP.
THAT ENDS OUR DIGGIN' FOR THE NIGHT! WE'LL HIDE OUT SOMEWHERE AN COME BACK TO-MORROW WHEN THE EXCITEMENT IS OVER.


THE NEXT DAY, THE TORMENTED DR. ADAMS READS BEHIND THE HEAD-LINES, BUT IS POWERLESS TO ASK FOR HELP.
THE POLICE MIGHT SHOOT HIM! THE PRO-FESSOR'S MIND WOULD BE LOST FOREVER. I MUST BE AT THAT AIR STRIP, IN CASE THE MONSTER AND ITS MASTERS RETURN.
MYSTERIOUS SABOTAGE AT AIRPORT STRIP TORN UP PLANE CRACKS UP 9 INJURED
AIRPORT GUARD HURT CLAIMS GIANT MONSTER NAMED ACE IS ON THE LOOSE IN COMPANY WITH TWO MEN
PROF VANCE, NOTED SCIENTIST BURIED TOD

THAT NIGHT, BACK AT THE AIR FIELD.
CHICK, LOOK! WE FOUND THE DOUGH! THAT'S YOUR OLD VALISE IT'S GOT YOUR INITIALS ON IT!
GOOD! NOW LET'S BUMP OFF THE MONSTER BEFORE HE MAKES TROUBLE FOR US!
GOOD HEAVENS! THEY'RE GOING TO KILL HIM!

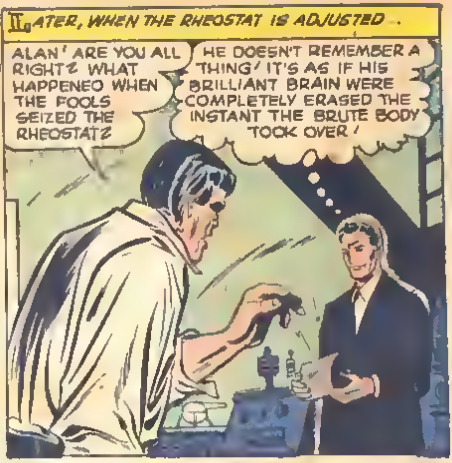
DON'T SHOOT, YOU FOOLS! HE'S A GENIUS! HE CAN BENEFIT MAN-KIND! GIVE ME THAT RHEOSTAT!
SO THE DOUBLE-CROSSERS WERE GOING TO SHOOT ME!

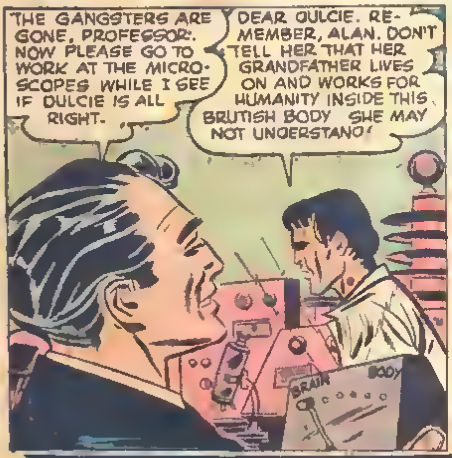
H-HE'S GOT ME! HE'LL KILL ME! YIIEEEE!
LOOK OUT! THE RHEO-STAT!

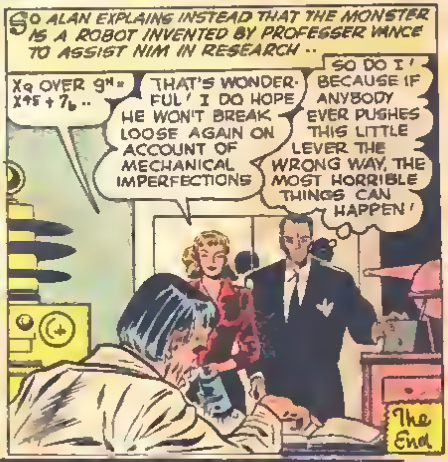
N-NO, MONSTER! DON'T KILL HIM!
IT'S NO USE! I CAN'T CONTROL HIM! I'VE GOT TO USE THE RHEOSTAT!
URGHHHH!

GOOD GRIEF! THE RHEOSTAT JAMMED WHEN IT FELL! IT'S USELESS!
D-DON'T KILL ME, ACE! IT WAS EDDIE'S IDEA DOUBLE-CROSSIN' YOU! I--I SAID-- GIVE THE MONSTER HIS SHARE! YOU GOTTA BELIEVE ME, ACE!

LOOK OUT! THAT AIRPLANE'S COMING DOWN! YOU'RE RUNNING RIGHT INTO IT!
YIIIAAAA!
THE LEVER! (GASP!) I--I STILL CAN'T MOVE IT EITHER WAY! THE MONSTER IS ON ITS OWN! I OWWWW!
SOON, AS AN EXCITED CROWD GATHERS AT THE SCENE OF THE MONSTER'S REVENGE
THE MONSTER'S DISAPPEARED! THERE'S NO USE TRYING TO TRAIL HIM UNTIL THIS RHEOSTAT IS FIXED. I MUST RETURN TO THE LABORATORY AND GET THE PROPER TOOLS!
BUT THE MONSTER, OBEYING THE MOST PRIMITIVE INSTINCT IN ALL BEASTS, FINDS ITS WAY BACK TO THE ONLY HOME IT'S EVER KNOWN...
OHHH! STAY AWAY FROM ME! HELP!
DULCIE! GOOD HEAVENS! THE MONSTER'S HERE!
EIEEE!
DULCIE, QUICK! I-I CAN'T FIGHT HIM! THERE'S A HYPO FULL OF CHLORAL HYDRATE IN THE MEDICINE CABINET! GIVE IT T-TO ME!...(GASP!)
WITH ONLY SECONDS TO SPARE, THE DOCTOR JABS THE HYPO INTO THE MONSTER'S ARM...


LATER, WHEN THE RHEOSTAT IS ADJUSTED..
ALAN! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE FOOLS SEIZED THE RHEOSTAT?
HE DOESN'T REMEMBER A THING! IT'S AS IF HIS BRILLIANT BRAIN WERE COMPLETELY ERASED THE INSTANT THE BRUTE BODY TOOK OVER!


THE GANGSTERS ARE GONE, PROFESSOR. NOW PLEASE GO TO WORK AT THE MICROSCOPES WHILE I SEE IF DULCIE IS ALL RIGHT.
DEAR DULCIE. REMEMBER, ALAN. DON'T TELL HER THAT HER GRANDFATHER LIVES ON AND WORKS FOR HUMANITY INSIDE THIS BRUTISH BODY. SHE MAY NOT UNDERSTAND!
BRAIN
BODY


SO ALAN EXPLAINS INSTEAD THAT THE MONSTER IS A ROBOT INVENTED BY PROFESSER VANCE TO ASSIST HIM IN RESEARCH..
THAT'S WONDERFUL! I DO HOPE HE WON'T BREAK LOOSE AGAIN ON ACCOUNT OF MECHANICAL IMPERFECTIONS
SO DO I! BECAUSE IF ANYBODY EVER PUSHES THIS LITTLE LEVER THE WRONG WAY, THE MOST HORRIBLE THINGS CAN HAPPEN!
The End.

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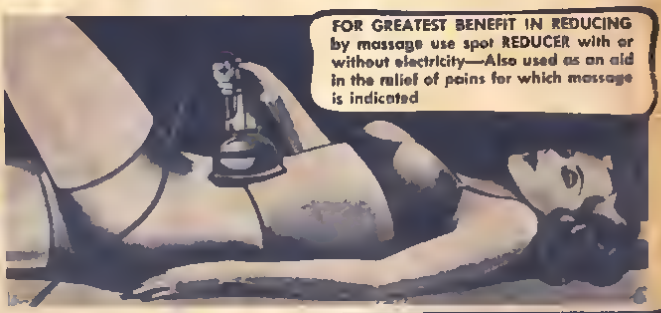

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PLUG IN GRASP HANDLE AND APPLY

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UNDERWRITERS LABORATORY APPROVED

TAKE OFF UGLY FAT!

Don't Stay FAT— You Can LOSE POUNDS and INCHES SAFELY without risking HEALTH

Take pounds off—keep slim and trim with Spot Reducer! Remarkable new invention which uses one of the most effective reducing methods employed by masseurs and turkish baths—MASSAGE!

With the SPOT REDUCER you can now enjoy the benefits of RELAXING, SOOTHING massage in the privacy of your own home! Simple to use—just plug in, grasp handle and apply over most any part of the body—stomach, hips, chest, neck, thighs, arms, buttocks, etc. The relaxing, soothing massage breaks down FATTY TISSUES, tones the muscles and flesh, and the increased awakened blood circulation carries away waste fat—helps you regain and keep a firmer and more GRACEFUL FIGURE!

YOUR OWN PRIVATE MASSEUR AT HOME

When you use the Spot Reducer it's almost like having your own private masseur at home. It's fun reducing this way! It not only helps you reduce and keep slim—but also aids in the relief of those types of aches and pains—and tired nerves that can be helped by massage! The Spot Reducer is handsomely made of light weight aluminum and rubber and truly a beautiful invention you will be thankful you own. AC 110 volts.

TRY THE SPOT REDUCER 10 DAYS FREE IN YOUR OWN HOME!

Mail this coupon with only $1 for your Spot Reducer on approval. Pay postman $8.95 plus delivery—or send $9.95 (full price) and we ship postage prepaid. Use it for ten days in your own home. Then if not delighted return Spot Reducer for full purchase price refund. Don't delay! You have nothing to lose—except ugly, embarrassing, undesirable pounds of FAT. MAIL COUPON now!

ALSO USE IT FOR ACHES AND PAINS

CAN'T SLEEP

Relax with electric Spot Reducer. See how soothing its gentle massage can be. Helps you sleep when massage can be of benefit.

MUSCULAR ACHES

A handy helper for transient relief of discomforts that can be aided by gentle, relaxing massage.

USED BY EXPERTS:

Thousands have lost weight this way—in hips abdomen, legs arms, necks buttocks etc. The same method used by stage, screen and radio personalities and leading reducing salons. The Spot Reducer can be used in your spare time in the privacy of your own room.

ORDER IT TODAY!

SPOT REDUCER CO., Dept. E-15
1025 Broad St., Newark, New Jersey

Please send me the Spot Reducer for 10 days trial period. I enclose $1, upon arrival I will pay postman only $8.95 plus postage and handling. If not delighted I may return SPOT REDUCER within 10 days for prompt refund of full purchase price.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____